

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 00235 101658Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-08 TRSE-00 COME-00 ACDA-12 /079 W
-----106950 101803Z /47

P R 101617Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4070
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USCINCEUR
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, GR, EC
SUBJECT: CARAMANLIS TO VISIT SEVERAL EC CAPITALS

REF: BONN 00269 (NOTAL)

1. AS HE HAS DONE BEFORE DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS,
PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS IS SCHEDULED TO EMBARK LATER THIS
MONTH ON ANOTHER ROUND OF PERSONAL DIPLOMACY SEEKING TO
PROMOTE GREECE'S EARLY ENTRY INTO THE EC. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED
THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S TRAVELS WILL INCLUDE VISITS TO LONDON
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(JANUARY 24-25), BRUSSELS (JANUARY 26-27), PARIS (JANUARY 28-29)
AND BONN (JANUARY 30-31).

2. A RESPONSIBLE MFA OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT THE STOPOVERS IN
THESE EC CAPITALS WILL BE "WORKING VISITS", UNDERTAKEN AT
THE PRIME MINISTER'S INITIATIVE TO GIVE HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO
RENEW PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH KEY EUROPEAN LEADERS. THE MFA

OFFICIAL NOTED THE "UNOFFICIAL NATURE" OF THE TRIP AND STRESSED THAT CARAMANLIS' MAIN PURPOSE WOULD BE ONCE AGAIN TO ARGUE FOR EARLY CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON GREECE'S ENTRY INTO THE EC. OBVIOUSLY, THE OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGED, RELATIONS WITH NATO AND THE CRITICAL QUESTIONS OF THE AEGEAN AND CYPRUS WERE LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED AS WELL. FINALLY, THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT A ROUND OF SIMILAR VISITS TO OTHER EC CAPITALS IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR LATER IN THE YEAR WITH THE SAME OBJECTIVE. NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE YET CONCERNING THE PRIME MINISTER'S TRAVELS BUT ONE IS EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED SHORTLY, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE.

3. THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION IN THE GREEK PRESS SINCE MID-DECEMBER THAT PRIME MINISTER WOULD TRAVEL TO BRUSSELS EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR AND VISIT OTHER EC CAPITALS AS WELL IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR GREECE'S ENTRY INTO THE EC. MORE RECENTLY, SOME NEWSPAPERS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO RELATE THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO BRUSSELS TO NATO ISSUES AND SPECIFICALLY TO THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CHANGES IN THE COMMAND STRUCTURE IN IZMIR WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED ON DECEMBER 30. SEVERAL PAPERS REPORT THAT HE WILL MEET WITH NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS DURING HIS STOP IN BRUSSELS.

MILLS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ATHENS00235
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780014-1190
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780183/aaaacrok.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c2b16de5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BONN 269
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3804055
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CARAMANLIS TO VISIT SEVERAL EC CAPITALS
TAGS: PGOV, GR, EC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c2b16de5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014